

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING JUDGE CYNTHIA RUFÉ ON WINNING THE 2016 BUCKS CO. WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AWARD

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, U.S. District Court Judge Cynthia M. Rufe is the recipient of the 2016 Bucks County Women's History Month Award, presented annually to distinguished women whose professional and civic achievements have "made a difference."

Her career began as a high school teacher, later an attorney, leader and mentor. Judge Rufe was a member of the panel that established a county-wide system to provide free legal representation to civil litigants and also worked with the Bucks County district attorney's office to establish safe protocols for women and child abuse victims. Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Rufe served with honor and distinction in the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. I had the great pleasure of working with Judge Rufe on issues of mutual concern during my years as a County Commissioner in Doylestown.

Judge Rufe continues to advocate for legal education and mentors law students and new attorneys and regularly presents legal and ethics courses to state and local bar associations. Additionally, she serves as a faculty member of the TIPS Trial Academy. As the granddaughter of immigrants, Judge Rufe takes great pride in her frequent role in naturalization ceremonies, welcoming new American citizens with sincere and inspiring words.

The Women's History Month Award presented to Judge Rufe is one page in the story of generations of women whose belief in equality and justice motivated them to make a difference in society, ultimately affecting the lives of subsequent generations. Judge Rufe exemplifies a belief in our nation's inherent values, including the rule of law and justice and, in so doing, has set an example for women who may choose to follow in her footsteps.

FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE
REFORM ACT OF 2015

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 1471, the "FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015."

The Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA), which was signed into law in 1979 by President Carter, provides support to improve our capability to prepare for, protect against,

respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

Under the Clinton Administration FEMA became the premier emergency response organization in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we all remember the disastrous response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana and the management mistakes that cost so many innocent Americans their lives.

Since that time FEMA has vastly improved its organization and response protocols to disasters throughout the country.

An example is FEMA's response to the 2015 historic floods in of Houston, Texas, which helped saved countless lives.

H.R. 1471 reauthorizes FEMA through Fiscal Year 2018 authorizes millions per year up to \$947 million in annual appropriations, and authorizes the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

This legislation also contains several provisions intended to reduce future losses from disasters and to improve the recovery process for victims and affected communities.

In addition the bill provides for a study of disaster costs and why they have continued to increase and gives greater weight to severe localized impact and adjusts disaster relief policies to reflect this change.

To protect families and individuals H.R. 1471 prohibits FEMA from initiating new action to recover disaster assistance payments made to an individual or household more than three years after the payments were made, or to recover emergency assistance funds owed by an individual or household more than three years after the funds were determined to be owed.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1471, "FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015" provides many changes that will allow this vital agency to operate effectively and respond quickly to the areas in this country where its services are needed most.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHAMPION
NORTHWEST MISSOURI
STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL
PROGRAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to congratulate the Northwest Missouri State University Football Program on their ninth appearance and fifth title in the NCAA Division II National Championship. It isn't every day that a team from the 6th District of Missouri wins a National Championship, but thanks to the Northwest Bearcats it is starting to become a tradition.

On December 19, 2015, the Northwest Bearcats took on the Shepard University Rams in a game at Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas. Although the competi-

tion was undeniably tough, I never doubted the ability of our team. So when Representative Alex Mooney of West Virginia challenged me to a wager over the game—I gladly accepted. As all of Missouri cheered, the Bearcat football team, under the leadership and direction of Head Coach Adam Dorrel, defeated the Rams 34-7 and sealed their place in sports history as one of only two NCAA Division II teams to win five National Championship titles.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the accomplishments of the Northwest Missouri Football Team for their tremendous undefeated season and title.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN
THOMAS ROCHE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Captain Thomas M. Roche on the occasion of his retirement from the Lower Makefield Township Police Department. Throughout his 42-year career in the township, Capt. Roche distinguished himself with his contributions, service and responsibilities, including oversight of the police department's internal affairs investigations, traffic safety unit, events and planning and as deputy emergency management coordinator. Furthermore, his supervisors recognized the key role he played in the Lower Makefield department's award and designation in the Pennsylvania Accreditation program. Prior to joining the department, Capt. Roche was a proud member of the United States Army in Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam and also as a member of the military police, stationed at several Army bases in the U.S. He is a decorated veteran and a dedicated member of the law enforcement community. Capt. Roche has set a fine example of public service for others to follow and begins his retirement with the appreciation of the citizens he willingly served.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILLIAM FENTON HOWE FAMILY IN PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the William Fenton Howe family for their contributions to the history of the Pacific Northwest and to recognize their 125th anniversary of calling the city of Port Orchard, Washington, home.

In 1888 the William Fenton Howe family migrated from Altoona, Pennsylvania, to Tacoma in what was then the Washington Territory.

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